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Santa Fe River Commission  
February 13, 2020, – 6:00 PM**

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**MINUTES OF THE SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Rachel Kullman, Vice-Chair of the Santa Fe River Commission, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Railyard Market Station Offices, 500 Market Street, Santa Fe, NM.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum, as follows:

**Present:**

Rachel Kullman, Vice-Chair  
Andrew Black  
Susan Coulter  
Anna Hansen  
Heidi Klingel  
Vanessa Springer (Alternate)

**Excused:**

Zoe Isaacson, Chair  
Phillip Bove  
Emile Sawyer (Alternate)

**Staff and Others Present:**

Alex Puglisi  
Andy Otto, Watershed Association  
Melissa Byers, Stenographer

\*NOTE: The original meeting packet is on file with City Staff. Any materials submitted at the meeting are marked as exhibits.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Coulter seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 9, 2020**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the minutes of January 9, 2020. Commissioner Klingel seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

#### **4. COMMUNICATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES /COMMITTEES:**

##### **a. SF Watershed Report (Andy Otto)**

**Love Your River Day- Saturday, February 15th from 10 am to noon meet at Frenchy's Field Barn**

Mr. Otto invited the Commissioners to *Love Your River Day* on February 15, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

He went over the January numbers. Since this is the depth of winter, the numbers are seemingly small, but they're not. There were 11 volunteers who picked up 9 bags of trash. He said that on February 12, 2020, they had a group of 15 high school "angel volunteers" who come in from Vail, Colorado. They collected 45 bags of garbage from the Arroyo Mascaras.

#### **5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

##### **a. City of Santa Fe Community Driven 5-year Water Conservation Plan - (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-4215)**

Ms. Chavez presented the *City of Santa Fe Water Conservation and Drought Management Plan 2015: 2020 Addendum ("Plan")*, attached as Exhibit "1". The City is required to prepare a five-year plan and meet compliance requirements mandated by the State Engineer. The goal was not to write a single word until staff received public input. There were five public meetings facilitated by staff and volunteers from the Water Conservation Committee, the Santa Fe Water Association and the Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce. All together they had collected 2200 pieces of public input. As a result, staff created a matrix, attached as Exhibit "2". The matrix shows "public input" and "planning". She said everything in the *Plan* has public buy in, City buy in and staff buy in. The *Plan* has a five-year score card. In July of every year there will be another set of public meetings. The public wants to remain involved. This is an ongoing project. They will have a quarterly report, showing their progress.

Commissioner Hansen asked how the public meetings were advertised.

Ms. Chavez said on social media, in newspapers, City website and the radio show.

Commissioner Coulter asked if the original *Plan* was done in 2015.

Ms. Chavez said there was a 2015-2020 Plan. They just wrote the addendum for 2020-2025.

- b. River Commission Work Group Break Out Session—(RiverTalks, Education & Living River Initiatives, River Corridor Master Plan) (Zoe Isaacson, River Commission Chair, [zoe.isaacson@gmail.com](mailto:zoe.isaacson@gmail.com))**

Chair Kullman allotted 15 minutes for the breakout groups to discuss ideas.

At the end of the 15-minute breakout session, Chair Kullman asked the Education and Living River group to present their ideas.

**Education & Living River Initiatives:**

Commissioner Coulter said she and Commissioner Klingel have met twice with Andy and Mori at the Watershed to talk about two main projects:

- **River festival.** They know it's a big reach and there are a lot of hurdles. They realize it may not happen, but they are not willing to give up on the idea yet.
- **CoCoRahs Education Project.** They may be able to partner with Water Conservation staff's education outreaches. They have a curriculum they put together. They have rain gauges that calculate down to 100<sup>th</sup> of an inch. Having the kids do things like calculate, given the certain footprint of a building, how much water can be caught, what volume is that, does it need to be stored, how is it pumped out, testing for contamination. There are a whole series of things that could be done, depending on the age range. The next step is to crosswalk that with the next generation sign standards, so it's shown to the schools that it meets their curriculum needs.

Other ideas include:

- **Invasive species, mapping and removal**, which is something the Watershed already does.
- **Scoop the poop**
- **Rain gardens.**

Commissioner Hansen said there needs to be more education on scoop the poop so people can understand why they need to pick up after their dogs; because of the fecal

matter and because of the nutrient that get into the river and the e coli. Those are things that people don't think about.

Commissioner Coulter said, yes, maybe more signage to education people why scoop the poop.

Chair Kullman asked what the next step is regarding the River Festival.

Commissioner Klingel said the first thing that needs to be done is to get a sense of how much funding the City might have to put towards this. When they emailed Melissa, she said that the City budget had already been figured out at this point. There was money for advertising, but it was mostly for the River Talks. There needs to be some conversation with the City to get some perspective on it. Maybe they can get a sense from key groups in the community to see how much interest there is.

Commissioner Coulter said maybe they can get small grants from McCune Foundation, something small, for kind of proof of concept.

Commissioner Hansen said the City has a new Arts and Culture Director. She came from LA County. She may be an interesting person to partner with in the idea of putting sculpture at a festival.

Mr. Puglisi asked if they are talking about something huge to be held in conjunction with the Fishing Derby.

Commissioner Coulter said it would be great if it were big. They would want to have it at the end of the school year so that the students could come and present their passports. They could also have a bike ride from one part of the river to another, along the bike trail, with could be done by the Santa Fe Conservation Trust which does community bike rides anyway. Maybe have it in two places and bike ride from one place to the other. They would like it huge but realize it may cost a lot of money.

Chair Kullman said she doesn't know how Melissa & Zoey want subcommittee reports presented, but maybe they can be done at the beginning of each meeting.

### **River Talks**

Chair Kullman said they made quite a bit of progress on River Talks. Zoey had come up with a list of topics that she thought would be good for the River Talks. They started with that and made some adjustments.

In collaboration with County's Earth Day Month, Commissioner Hansen indicated that the County's plan was to plant several trees all around the County. They're putting one near San Isidro Crossing, one in Pojuaque, one in Glorieta, the Hondo Fire Station, some in El Dorado and Edgewood. They are making sure the right trees are being planted and making sure that people can and will take care of the trees.

Commissioner Kullman said the day they would want the talk is the day the planting is done at San Isidro Crossing. She said some of the topics to address at the time of the plantings would be the riparian corridor, maybe have Audubon talk, maybe Commissioner Black could also speak. That would be around the end of April.

The next talk would be an Acequia Talk/Tour about the history of the acequias in general, maybe during the peak of the water supply in the month of June. They'll have to run that by Melissa to see if there is advertising budget.

The next talk could be a homeowner workshop, hosted indoor somewhere. This would include education on stormwater, what you can do as a homeowner; how to read your water bill, what the Santa Fe River Fund is. It would be like a customer workshop session.

The next one would be like the one last year: a tour of the Buckman Direct Diversion.

Last would be the Upper Watershed Tour. There would be two and those would be held after the monsoon season.

Chair Kullman asked if there are any other topics of suggestion.

Commissioner Coulter said she'd like to see the wastewater treatment plant, if it can be worked in.

## **6. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

- **WOTUS Update (Alex Puglisi, [aapuglisi@santafenm.gov](mailto:aapuglisi@santafenm.gov), 955-4215)**

Mr. Puglisi went over the report he presented to the Public Utilities Committee, attached as Exhibit "3". He said on a regular basis, he's going to report on the sites they've been working on. The other handout, Exhibit "4", is the *Map showing known contaminated sites within the City Well Field area*.

Mr. Hook asked Mr. Puglisi to explain the legend and some of the acronyms.

Mr. Puglisi explained what the acronyms meant, as follows:

PSTB (yellow) – Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

NMED – New Mexico Environment Department

SWB – Solid Waste Bureau

VRP – Voluntary Remediation Program, which is underground water

He said the rest are self-explanatory.

Commissioner Coulter asked about the brownfield site.

Mr. Puglisi said the brownfield sites are only ones that have been investigated.

Mr. Puglisi said he was on the agenda to talk about WOTUS (Waters of the United States). He said the River Commission was instrumental in helping the City put together comments for the proposed rule. The proposed rule has been approved and adopted by the EPA. It has not been implemented yet or published. After publication in the Federal Register, there's a 60-day time period before implementation. They're assuming that there will be a number of states and other groups that will sue over the new definition. They are hoping the implementation of the definition would get stayed. If it gets stayed in certain states that participate in a lawsuit, like the Obama rules being overturned. Several states participated in the lawsuit over the Obama rules. Other states did not, including New Mexico, until the very end. It could go into effect in some states and not others.

Commissioner Hansen emphasized how instrumental this Commission was in working on WOTUS not only for the City but for the County also.

## **7. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

## **8. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Black said Chair Isaacson had asked him to see if he could get someone to discuss on wildlife and the impacts on the River. He said he could probably get someone to come in April.

**9. ADJOURN**

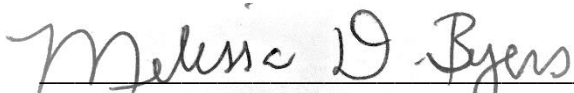
Chair Kullman adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Approved by:

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Zoey Isaacson, Chair

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa D. Byers". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Melissa D. Byers, Stenographer  
Byers Organizational Support Services